

REMARKS

Claims 51-57 are pending, with claims 51-57 being independent. Claims 53-56 are being amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the Specification, for example, at Col. 3, lines 5-23 and Col. 6, lines 12-26. No new subject matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please consider the references listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form.

Allowed Claims

Claims 51-57 are allowed. The amendments to claims 53-56 correct minor typographical issues and do not require additional search or examination. Claims 51-57 remain patentable for the same reasons identified earlier in the prosecution history.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, claims 51-57 remain in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe this application is not in a condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned applicant's representative to discuss what additional steps he believes may be necessary to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Applicant : Dwight Allen Merriman et al.
Serial No. : 09/577,798
Filed : May 24, 2000
Page : 10

Attorney's Docket No. 16113-1341RE1

Please apply the \$930 Request for Continued Examination fee and any other necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.
Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 4, 2012

/Drew W. Schoentrup/
Drew W. Schoentrup
Reg. No. 62543

Fish & Richardson P.C.
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (877) 769-7945